

CLAIMS:

1. A method for communicating between a client device and a peripheral device over a network that includes the peripheral device, the client device, and a server device adapted to control the peripheral device, the peripheral device having a network address which is not known to the client device, the method comprising:

determining the network address of the peripheral device;

addressing the peripheral device using the determined network address of the peripheral device; and

communicating directly with the peripheral device, thereby bypassing the server device, wherein said step of determining includes reading a first data file of the server device, said first data file including at least one of (a) the network address of the peripheral device, and (b) a network address of a second data file associated with and including the network address of the peripheral device, and comparing portions of at least one of said first and second data files with a predetermined data formatting pattern indicative of a network address.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said first data file includes (a) the network address of the peripheral device, and wherein said step of determining comprises comparing portions of said first data file with said pattern.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein said step of determining further comprises recognizing a match between a network address portion of said first data file and said pattern, and identifying said network address portion as being the network address of the peripheral device.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein said first data file includes (b) the network address of a second data file associated with and including the network address of the peripheral device, and wherein said step of determining comprises comparing portions of said second data file with said pattern.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein said step of determining further comprises recognizing a match between a network address portion of said second data file and said pattern, and identifying said network address portion as being the network address of the peripheral device.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein said step of determining further comprises testing said network address portion to determine whether said network address is the network address of the peripheral device.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein said testing comprises sending a command to said network address.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein said step of determining further comprises identifying said network address portion as being the network address of the peripheral device as a result of said testing.

9. A medium readable by a machine embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for communicating between a client device and a peripheral device over a network that includes the peripheral device, the client device, and a server device adapted to control the peripheral device, the peripheral device having a network address which is not known to the client device, the method comprising:

determining the network address of the peripheral device;

addressing the peripheral device using the determined network address of the peripheral device; and

communicating directly with the peripheral device, thereby bypassing the server device, wherein said step of determining includes reading a first data file of the server device, said first data file including at least one of (a) the network address of the peripheral device, and

(b) a network address of a second data file associated with and including the network address of the peripheral device, and comparing portions of at least one of said first and second data files with a predetermined data formatting pattern indicative of a network address.

10. The medium of claim 9, wherein said first data file includes (a) the network address of the peripheral device, and wherein said step of determining comprises comparing portions of said first data file with said pattern.

11. The medium of claim 10, wherein said step of determining further comprises recognizing a match between a network address portion of said first data file and said pattern, and identifying said network address portion as being the network address of the peripheral device.

12. The medium of claim 9, wherein said first data file includes (b) the network address of a second data file associated with and including the network address of the peripheral device, and wherein said step of determining comprises comparing portions of said second data file with said pattern.

13. The medium of claim 12, wherein said step of determining further comprises recognizing a match between a network address portion of said second data

file and said pattern, and identifying said network address portion as being the network address of the peripheral device.

14. The medium of claim 13, wherein said step of determining further comprises testing said network address portion to determine whether said network address is the network address of the peripheral device.

15. The medium of claim 14, wherein said testing comprises sending a command to said network address.

16. The medium of claim 14, wherein said step of determining further comprises identifying said network address portion as being the network address of the peripheral device as a result of said testing.

17. An apparatus for communicating between a client device and a peripheral device over a network that includes the peripheral device, the client device, and a server device adapted to control the peripheral device, the peripheral device having a network address which is not known to the client device, comprising:

means for determining the network address of the peripheral device;

means for addressing the peripheral device using the determined network address of the peripheral device; and

means for communicating directly with the peripheral device, thereby bypassing the server device, wherein said means for determining includes means for reading a first data file of the server device, said first data file including at least one of (a) the network address of the peripheral device, and (b) a network address of a second data file associated with and including the network address of the peripheral device, and comparing portions of at least one of said first and second data files with a predetermined data formatting pattern indicative of a network address.

18. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein said first data file includes (a) the network address of the peripheral device, and wherein said means for determining comprises means for comparing portions of said first data file with said pattern.

19. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein said means for determining further comprises means for recognizing a match between a network address portion of said first data file and said pattern, and means for identifying said network address portion as being the network address of the peripheral device.

20. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein said first data file includes (b) the network address of a second data file associated with and including the network address

of the peripheral device, and wherein said means for determining comprises means for comparing portions of said second data file with said pattern.

21. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein said means for determining further comprises means for recognizing a match between a network address portion of said second data file and said pattern, and means for identifying said network address portion as being the network address of the peripheral device.

22. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein said means for determining further comprises means for testing said network address portion to determine whether said network address is the network address of the peripheral device.

23. The apparatus of claim 22, wherein said means for testing comprises means for sending a command to said network address.

24. The apparatus of claim 22, wherein said means for determining further comprises means for identifying said network address portion as being the network address of the peripheral device as a result of the determination performed by said means for testing.